

Introduced by Senator Margett

February 18, 2005

An act to amend Section 19596.3 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to horse racing, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 542, as introduced, Margett. Satellite wagering.

Existing law authorizes thoroughbred racing associations or fairs to broadcast and accept wagers on out-of-country thoroughbred races during the calendar period the association or fair is conducting a race meeting, without the consent of the participating horsemen's organization. These imported races are subject to specified conditions.

This bill would permit a harness racing association that conducts live racing after 5:30 p.m. to import out-of-country thoroughbred races as well.

Because this bill would expand wagering opportunities by permitting the importation of additional out-of-country races, this bill would increase the amount of continuously appropriated license fees, thereby making an appropriation.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 19596.3 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 19596.3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
- 4 thoroughbred racing association, *harness racing association that*
- 5 *conducts live racing after 5:30 p.m.*, or fair may distribute the
- 6 audiovisual signal and accept wagers on the results of

1 out-of-country thoroughbred races during the calendar period the
2 association or fair is conducting a race meeting, without the
3 consent of the organization that represents horsemen
4 participating in the race meeting. Out-of-country races shall be
5 imported under the following conditions:

6 (a) A thoroughbred association, *harness racing association*, or
7 fair shall conduct the wagering in accordance with the applicable
8 provisions of Sections 19601, 19616, 19616.1, and 19616.2.

9 (b) The total number of out-of-country thoroughbred races on
10 which wagers are allowed to be accepted statewide in any given
11 year shall not exceed the total number of out-of-country
12 thoroughbred races on which wagers were accepted in 1998.

13 (c) No thoroughbred association, *harness racing association*,
14 or fair may accept wagers pursuant to this section on
15 out-of-country races commencing after 5:30 p.m., Pacific
16 standard time, without the consent of the harness or quarter horse
17 racing association that is then conducting a live racing meeting.

18 (d) A thoroughbred racing association, *harness racing*
19 *association*, or fair distributing the audiovisual signal and
20 accepting wagers on the results of out-of-country races pursuant
21 to this section may execute an agreement with an association that
22 conducts thoroughbred races in the southern zone to allow that
23 association to distribute the signal and accept wagers on the
24 results of out-of-country thoroughbred races, except that the
25 license fees paid to the state shall be double the amount paid by a
26 quarter horse racing association specified in subdivision (b) of
27 Section 19605.7.